

WAGNER'S GUDGEL WIELDED FOR CITY

Senator, at Brown Committee Hearing, Says Tax Burden Here Is Unjust.

BOROUGH HEADS HEARD

State Senator Robert F. Wagner sitting as a member of the Brown legislative committee proved yesterday the most outspoken and insistent champion of the contention of New York city officials that the city had been made to bear more than its share of State taxes.

Chairman Elton R. Brown of Water-town had questioned Borough President Mathewson of The Bronx at length in an effort to show that the city was not unfairly taxed. The attempt was not entirely successful, for Mr. Mathewson cited the Jerome avenue road, extending to Yonkers, as a case in which the municipality bore a heavy share of cost while reaping a relatively small proportion of the benefit.

Senator Wagner followed with questions touching the entire public roads system of the State. He called attention to the fact also that while the expenses of the up-State Public Service Commission were defrayed by the State the law made the expenses of the down-State commission mandatory on the city.

Senator Brown interrupted several of Senator Wagner's questions.

Thinks Charges Fall Short.

"I am only trying to show how the city is discriminated against," said the Democratic leader of the Senate in reply to the Republican leader. "In my opinion, the city officials have not gone far enough in their charges."

"This city has been purposely excluded from the benefits of the State highway funds. It pays 70 per cent of the expenses of the State Health Department, but gets nothing for it. It pays a big share of the expenses of the agricultural colleges, which are maintained for the benefit of other communities."

Mr. Brown refused to accept these statements. He insisted that the health laws were passed by the vote of New York city representatives and that this city had a controlling voice in the enactment of the good roads bill.

Senator Brown announced yesterday afternoon that the question of the purchase of the court house site would be taken up by the committee later.

The court house came into the line-light again through the statement of Borough President Mark of Manhattan that he believed the services of the Court House Board might be performed by the Board of Estimate. The present Court House Board was created by the Mayor under a mandatory State law.

Three of the Borough Presidents appeared before the committee yesterday and the two others will appear this morning. President Lewis H. Pounds of Brooklyn insisted that real estate was being made to carry more than its share of the city's burden. Mr. Mathewson agreed with this view and added:

"The burden on either real estate owners or tenants must be lessened. The budget for 1916 has been pared down as far as possible. New sources of revenue must be found if the burden on real estate is not to become unbearable."

President Mark denounced the new standardization system as heartless and impractical. "I would standardize places, not human beings," he said. He believed that the Board of Estimate should have charge of the Public Service Commission's construction work within the city.

"All I am asking is a concentration of authority," explained Mr. Mark. "Both the State and city governments interfere with the boroughs. The State, through the Public Service Commission, tears up our streets, then the gas and water departments of the city do the same thing, and the Borough President gets the blame for street cleaning, now a city function in three of the boroughs, might well be made the function of every borough. Markets, too, should be the exclusive care of the boroughs. At present the Board of Estimate establishes a market and the Comptroller supervises it, but the Borough President builds and maintains it."

Mr. Mark vigorously opposed the proposal to abolish boroughs.

Wants Minimum for Teachers.

Clarence C. Meloney, associate superintendent in charge of high schools, said he believed the schools could not be properly maintained without mandatory legislation. He believed the State should fix minimum teacher salaries, leaving to the Board of Education power to arrange all details. Salaries, he thought, should be paid from a lump sum awarded to the Board of Education.

President Thomas W. Churchill, who appeared before the committee again, complained that the majority of teachers' salaries were too low. He believed that the policy of extreme economy, made necessary by the city's depleted purse, should not extend to the schools.

President Pounds took issue with Mr. Churchill on this point. He said he believed the Board of Education should bear its share of the burden with other departments. He opposed also the suggestion that the Board of Education should have full authority over its own budget. President Mathewson thought teachers' salaries generally should be fixed with the approval of the Board of Estimate. He expressed opposition to the principle of an elected Board of Education. All three Borough Presidents said a referendum to decide the will of the people regarding control of city employees' salaries would be satisfactory.

Senator Brown received yesterday a letter from an official of the Anti-Saloon League urging the abolition of saloons as the solution of the financial difficulties of the city and State.

"I have not read the letter and do not intend to," said Mr. Brown.

CIVIL SERVICE INQUIRY NOW.

Horton Committee Will Look Into State Commission's Work.

ALBANY, Dec. 27.—The Senate Civil Service Committee of the Senate, of which Senator Clinton T. Horton of Buffalo is chairman, is to make an investigation of the State Civil Service Commission similar to that of the Public Service Commission under way now. It was said tonight that the investigation will not be directed against the present Civil Service Commissions, whose members are appointees of Gov. Whitman, but will be aimed rather at certain employees of the commission and the administration of certain features of the civil service law in various parts of the State.

The Horton committee has been at work ever since the last session of the Legislature on an investigation of the civil service in general with a view to making recommendations to the coming Legislature and for the purpose of salary classification.

The present members of the Civil Service Commission are Samuel J. Ordway of New York, Republican, chairman; Willard D. McKinstry of Watertown, Republican; William Gorham of Albany, Democrat.

CARRANZA TAKES OVER GOVERNMENT OF JUAREZ

Mayor, Postmaster and Customs Officers Sent to Port to Replace Villa Employees—Villa Releases Americans—Huerta Ill Again.

EL PASO, TEX., Dec. 27.—To-day Andres Garcia, Mexican Consul, and the entire civil organization of the Constitutional Government crossed to Juarez and assumed charge of affairs. With the Consul went Mayor Manuel Prieto to be chief executive. The customs and revenue collecting officers, postmaster and tentative chief of police also went over, accompanied by automobile loads of minor officials.

The work of paying off the Villa soldiers who surrendered last week was started to-day. Every soldier got \$10 in gold and a pass to his home. Those who wish to reenlist in the Carranza army were taken. Officers received \$20 to \$30 in gold and transportation home.

Carranza troops coming to El Paso from Naco, Ariz., have been held at that point, but are expected here to-morrow. Gen. Obregon said to-day that he would permit the Villa troops to land at the port, near Pelaya, west of here, and march them into Juarez by night. If his request was not granted he would lead his men here and take them over the international bridge.

Gen. Obregon remained in El Paso to-day and will stay here until Carranza troops are guarding Juarez. Gen. Maximo Garcia, with several hundred men from Chihuahua City, is expected at the border to-morrow.

Fear of an attempt on the life of Gen. Obregon led to the clearing of the corridors and hallways of the Hotel Paso del Norte of all suspicious characters.

Gen. Obregon said to-night that the importance connected with the Villa cause have surrendered or made arrangements to surrender with the exception of Jose Rodriguez and Manuel Medina. These men will not get amnesty if they surrender. Both, he asserted, refused the terms he offered.

Fear of an attempt on the life of Gen. Obregon said to-night that the Villa had been located with about 400 men in the mountains near Guerrero, in the west of Chihuahua City. He said Villa was holding his brother, General Obregon, in the hope of getting amnesty for himself.

About six hundred Villa troops came into Chihuahua City to-day, Gen. Obregon said, and six hundred more are waiting at Madera to surrender if the others are dealt with as promised by the Carranza Government, which has offered them amnesty.

Gen. Estaban Cantu, from Mexico, opposite Calexico, Cal., is here to arrange for assuming the military Government.

SWANN'S DELAYS ARE WORRYING TAMMANY

New District Attorney Will Not Announce Staff Until Friday.

Edward Swann is a Judge of General Sessions, and he is the one who is worrying Tammany.

President Mark of Manhattan, Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court, and there are other officials who are worried by the delay in the appointment of a new District Attorney.

When Judge Swann left his chambers yesterday afternoon he said that he would make some announcement as to his appointments on Friday. Many Tammany organization men who have been looking for the slate called at the Criminal Courts Building yesterday, but went away disappointed.

Tammany politicians have not been well favored up to date, and at least half a dozen men who have the stamp of the approval of leaders high in the councils of the organization have not heard word from their appointments. Many men on the staff of District Attorney Perkins are Democrats and some belong to the local organizations, but no definite information has been imparted to them last night.

It was learned that there is a chance of possibly half of the present legal staff of the office being retained at the time being. No hint as to what will happen to a dozen or more persons not under civil service was forthcoming.

Judge Swann as the new head of the office will take charge next Saturday, and on the following Monday he will have to deal with his assistants in his part of General Sessions and the Supreme Court, Criminal Term, in order to get the calendar ready.

Perkins Honored by His Staff.

District Attorney Perkins was tendered an informal dinner by members of his staff at Healy's last night and was presented with a brass desk set. Public Service Commissioner Hayward and Police Commissioner Koenig were the only guests.

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GERMANY A MODEL FOR U. S.—PERKINS

Nation in Sore Need of a Commander in Chief, Says Moose Leader.

WILSON Foe TO INDUSTRY

George W. Perkins said yesterday that the three things most needed by the United States were an adequate army and navy, a mobilization of industry and a commander in chief, and he intimated that in his opinion the greatest of these should be the commander in chief.

"And who would you have for commander in chief?" Mr. Perkins was asked.

"Now I'm not going to tell you, but I saw a cartoon the other day. On one side stood the leaders of the Republican party all looking into the distant haze and saying, 'Where shall we find a leader?' On the other side stood the Colonel and all the people pointing at him and saying, 'Why, there is the leader for you,' but those fellows couldn't see anything."

"National preparedness as I conceive it," said Mr. Perkins, "must be considered and developed with equal emphasis upon three main features: 1. The army and navy. 2. Preparedness for industrial mobilization. 3. The commander in chief, who under our Constitution is the President."

Hostility to Industry.

"The necessary enlargements of our army and navy forces must be decided with regard to our location, the position of our industry, the movement of our international relations and our obligations in the Western Hemisphere. The specifications of our best military and naval authorities deserve a careful hearing."

"Industry can never be prepared for mobilization until a fundamental change has taken place in the relation of Government and business. The Government could not mobilize for purposes of defense without an industrial coordination. The nation's industries cannot be brought to a state of readiness for such service until a better understanding is reached with the Government."

"The relation at present is one of hostility. The tendency continues to tear down efficient business organizations, to break such business in pieces. That has been the preoccupation of the present Administration, taking business apart and trying to make it run in small pieces. Try it with an automobile and the result is a scrap heap. Follow the same procedure with business and the result is one of equal efficiency."

"What we need to do is to organize business with an attitude of understanding and cooperation in the aims of Government and business. The reason for Germany's success lies in the relation between her businessmen and her business men. Business has been allowed to develop, encouraged by the Government. Without such an attitude on the part of Government in the United States industry cannot be enlisted for national service nor brought to a state of readiness for mobilization on occasions of defense."

Remedy Asked in 1912.

"Reference to the Progressive platform of 1912 will show that this problem is there adequately dealt with. We asked for a tariff commission. That wasn't asked for either a high tariff or a low tariff, but it was saying that the tariff

should be studied and arranged on a basis of knowledge strictly in regard to the facts of industrial development and industrial conditions throughout the world. At the close of the war cheap goods and the product of the cheapest labor will be thrown in great quantities upon this country. For this contingency and others of equal importance that have arisen in connection with the war we need to prepare now."

"Then at the head of the country there must be a man always capable of organizing the forces of industry and the forces of defense, the commander in chief. We need at the head of the nation an international man, a man who knows the world and its affairs. We must stop putting men in the White House because they have made good speeches or done something else equally clever and important and entrust our affairs to a man who can organize the forces of the army, the navy and of industry."

"This is far from saying that Mr. Wilson, if he had spent the \$300,000,000 for the Standard Oil Company under which \$175 cents a gallon was to be paid for gas oil. This decision as to a price to be charged consumers was merely tentative. It was never acted upon by the commission, and at the suggestion of the Thompson committee the opinion was tabled."

Since then Commissioner Williams has agreed that the allowance of 7 1/2 per cent as a return on appraised valuation was too high and his revised opinion allows only 7 per cent, return to the Kings County company. Whether this will result in a reduction of the price allowed to be charged for gas depends upon the price for gas oil. This is the investigation by the Federal Reserve Board beginning Thursday, and the United States Attorney-General has been asked to investigate the alleged discriminatory prices charged by the Standard Oil Company for this commodity.

Appointed by Gov. Dix.

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Gov. Whitman will have two places on the commission to fill on February 1. He has already had the appointment of two members, Chairman Straus and Commissioner Hayward. Those who have been watching the progress of the Thompson committee believe that he will also have the naming of Commissioner Wood's successor. Thus the entire commission would be of Gov. Whitman's making. There is some agitation for a reorganization of both Public Service Commissions, the idea being to have three men from the first district, three from the second and a chairman who would be over both.

Meanwhile consideration of possible successors to Commissioner Cram, Wood, and now Commissioner Williams, centres about Secretary Travis H. Whitney and Bridge Commissioner Kracke. The latter man's Brooklyn Republican organization was the first to endorse Gov. Whitman as a candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination. Mr. Whitney has been secretary of the commission since its organization and is thoroughly familiar with all the problems now before it, particularly those connected with the dual system contracts.

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WILLIAMS QUILTS P. S.; NO FEAR OF CHARGES

Continued from First Page.

say that Commissioner Williams came to the conclusion that the circumstances it would be better for the commission and the public if every man connected with the commission before the Thompson investigation began, got out. He therefore took the opportunity to leave with Commissioner Cram. This will leave Commissioner Wood as the only Democrat on the commission.

The gas rate case referred to by Commissioner Williams is that of the Kings County Lighting Company. Commissioner Williams is arriving at the price to be charged by the company, which he fixed at 95 cents a thousand cubic feet, accepted as bona fide a contract entered into by the lighting company with the Standard Oil Company under which \$175 cents a gallon was to be paid for gas oil. This decision as to a price to be charged consumers was merely tentative. It was never acted upon by the commission, and at the suggestion of the Thompson committee the opinion was tabled."

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